

Amusements and Meetings To-Night.

BOOTH'S THEATRE.—"Julius Cæsar."
 LAGUE THEATRE.—Variety.
 FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE.—"Pique."
 OLIVIER THEATRE.—Variety.
 FINE FRANCHISE THEATRE.—Variety.
 TONY PASTOR'S NEW THEATRE.—Variety.
 UNION SQUARE THEATRE.—"The Merry Wives of Windsor."
 WALLACE'S THEATRE.—"John Galt."

ASSOCIATION HALL.—11:30: Lecture, Dr. John Lord.
 ACADEMY OF DESIGN.—Annual Exhibition of the American Society of Painters in Water Colors.
 COLLEGE HALL.—"Signe of Paris."

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Business Notices.

SOLID Silver Forks, Spoons, Tea Sets, and
 every piece of silverware at wholesale prices.
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NEW-YORK DAILY TRIBUNE.
 FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.
 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1870.
 THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—The Anglo-Egyptian Bank engaged to
 advance \$80,000,000 to the Khedive of Egypt.
 —Merry & Son, provision merchants of London,
 failed.
 —Prince Bismarck spoke in favor of
 penal measures against the press. —Deputy
 Volain was appointed Prefect of Police in Paris, vice
 M. Renaut, resigned. —M. Laurentie, the
 author, is dead.

DOMESTIC.—In Congress yesterday, Senators Mor-
 rill of Maine, Edmunds, Cameron, Maxey, and
 others favored the Centennial appropriation; the
 Senate passed the bill to reimburse the St. Albans
 Bank. In the House great movement was created
 over the Diplomatic bill by Mr. Springer and Mr.
 Cox. —The Boston and Albany Railroad aban-
 doned free passes. —In Gen. Babcock's trial,
 existence of the conspiracy was proved, and adjourn-
 ment was had to prepare the questions to be sent to
 the President to answer. —The new San Fran-
 cisco Clearing-house officers were elected. —In
 the State Legislature, Mr. Woodin modified his res-
 olutions about the Auditorship, and bills were offered
 for the entertainment of distinguished Centennial
 visitors in New-York, and for compelling street
 railways to give passengers a seat.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—The audiences at the Hip-
 podrome revival meetings were large and deeply in-
 terested. Mr. Moody's sermon was on Christian
 courage and enthusiasm. —The total losses by
 the great Broadway fire were computed at \$2,521,-
 750, and the insurance at \$2,194,200. Two firemen
 were killed and six injured. —E. A. Facker
 & Co. and other large coal commission houses sus-
 pended, with aggregate liabilities of \$800,000.
 —The Quarantine Commissioners' annual re-
 port recommended that the quarantine depart-
 ment be made self-sustaining. —Gold, 112½, 112¾,
 112½. Gold value of the legal-tender dollar at the
 close, 88½ cents.

THE WEATHER.—The Government report predicts
 cooler and clearing weather. —In this city yester-
 day the day was mild and cloudy toward night,
 with light rain; thermometer, 37½, 42, 42½.

During the Moody and Sankey meetings at the Hip-
 podrome, and to meet the popular demand for THE TRIBUNE
 the circulation reports of Mr. Moody's Sermons, we will
 send THE DAILY TRIBUNE to any address, postpaid, for
 \$1 per month. Subscribers in this city and vicinity can
 be regularly served from any respectable news stand.

Our citizens will read with interest Mr. Kil-
 brian's bill in the Assembly to provide for the
 better accommodation and comfort of passen-
 gers on street cars. If this becomes law, a
 passenger's fare will entitle him to a seat at
 least fourteen inches wide. It seems too much
 to hope for.

Some merry hours were spent in the House
 yesterday in discussing consular and diploma-
 tic appropriations. The chief point made
 was that our representatives abroad trifle
 away the time and money of the nation; an
 unprejudiced reader of the debate might come
 to the same conclusion respecting their critics
 in Congress.

The friends of the bill appropriating
 \$1,500,000 for the Centennial are much
 cheered as to its prospect. Pretty much all
 that can be said against it has already been
 said. The debate yesterday in the Senate ex-
 hibited ability on both sides, but was on the
 whole very favorable to the bill; the good
 feeling of Southern Senators being prominent.

Being now in favor with Great Britain,
 the Khedive has been enabled to borrow
 \$50,000,000—\$70,000,000 being for the State,
 and \$10,000,000 for the Khedive's own ac-
 count as a great landowner. This increases
 the Egyptian debt to about \$700,000,000, all
 of which has been contracted since Ismail came
 to the throne. It is fortunate for Egypt that
 a large share of the money has been devoted
 to works of public utility, which must increase
 the wealth of the people.

The long-continued contest between the
 Quarantine Commissioners and the Health
 Officer now takes more definite form. The
 Commissioners propose, in their report to the
 Legislature, to dispense with the Health
 Officer—he having previously recommended
 that they be dispensed with. Each side makes
 economy the basis of its appeal. Our citizens,
 and especially our merchants who are most
 deeply concerned in this matter, should be
 consulted before the Legislature accepts the
 view of either party to the quarrel.

Mr. Conkling has heard at last the voice of
 the beloved disciple—heard it just as the head
 of the sinking Howe went down for the third
 time beneath the waves. And he has

"seen" Bristow. No more can the sad
 message be flashed from Washington, to the
 confusion of wondering and disloyal
 journals, that the great Senator "has
 not seen the Secretary for a month." He
 went—much too late, it is true—but he
 went, saw, and conquered. Howe's head has
 been snatched up and glued on again, and all
 is quiet once more in the Custom-house. But
 let Bristow have a care. Liberties of this sort
 cannot be taken among the household troops
 with impunity.

With the prospect near at hand of the actual
 construction of a rapid transit railway in our
 streets, much interest is felt as to the appear-
 ance this novel structure will present; whether
 it will be greatly obstructive to light; how
 much noise may be expected with it; what
 facilities it will give to its passengers for
 peering into second-story windows. Particu-
 lars now furnished as to Dr. Gilbert's plans
 clear up some of these points, and are espe-
 cially comforting to owners of property on the
 proposed routes, in giving the hope that the
 railway will be built in the middle of the street
 instead of over the sidewalk.

"NO TRUST HERE."

The world has outgrown the saying, "Prin-
 ciples, not men." It has learned that the
 most unscrupulous men are the most ready to
 profess principles which they suppose to be
 popular; that a much larger class, who are
 not conscientious, but merely weak as dis-
 avower, are ready to change their principles or
 entirely abandon them in practice, when per-
 sonal advantage presses strongly; and that no
 real reform can be accomplished except by the
 choice of men whose known opinions and tried
 character give proof that they will not only
 profess and promise but do something good.
 Hence party platforms are regarded with
 contempt. The day of the cunning
 phrase-maker, the skilled resolution-
 drawer, is over. The country does not care a
 pinch of snuff for the professions of parties;
 it judges them by their acts, and by the char-
 acter of the men selected for stations of trust.
 This does not make the work of reform more
 difficult, though it is infinitely harder to choose
 men wisely than to choose between sound and
 unsound principles. The wide gulf between
 promise and performance remains. Reform
 wastes less time in getting men who will
 promise the right thing, but will never do it;
 whatever victories it wins are real victories; if
 it makes less apparent progress, the gains that
 it does make are more likely to be substantial
 and lasting.

As a consequence, political contests turn
 more upon questions of personal record and
 character. There is less discussion of abstract
 theories, perhaps too little; less attention paid
 to the details of proposed measures. Politics
 become more sharply personal. The question
 for genuine reformers is not whether Mr.
 Blaine or Mr. Morton professes an attachment
 to correct principles; not whether the Demo-
 cratic party professes to care for the national
 honor, or to desire reparation. It is whether
 the character, constituent elements, and pre-
 vailing tendencies of the party are such that
 it can be trusted to maintain the public honor;
 whether the conduct, associations, and personal
 character of the men are such that, if in-
 vested with power, he can be trusted to use
 it for the public good and not for
 personal or partisan advantage. By
 a single campaign in a single State
 the Democratic party lost more than it had
 gained by years of unlimited promise and
 vicious protestation, because the campaign
 in Ohio proved that a vast number of the
 voters of that party were at heart either rep-
 uglians or communists, and that its best
 leaders were too cowardly, too servile in their
 devotion to party, or too anxious for success
 at any price, to combat the dangerous ten-
 dencies of their partisans. The Democratic
 party may profess and promise to the end of
 the chapter, but nothing less than perform-
 ance, and that of a very positive and unequiv-
 ocal kind, at this session of Congress, will re-
 store to the party the confidence which it has
 thus thrown away.

So Mr. Blaine, by a single appeal to the
 basest elements and the most pernicious ten-
 dencies of his party, has thrown away much of
 the confidence which many liberal men had
 given him. It was his golden opportunity to
 make himself the leader of the very best Re-
 publican element. He deliberately chose to do
 exactly the contrary, and it will not be easy for
 him to recover the position he has lost. By
 promises and professions he never can; by
 stout-hearted and manly work in Congress,
 during the rest of the session, perhaps he
 might. Mr. Morton, again, will not be judged
 by what he may profess, for men will remember
 that, even while McDonald and Joyce were rob-
 bing the Government, professionally in order
 to provide a campaign fund for the election of
 Grant, Mr. Morton declared our civil service
 the best that the world had ever seen. They
 will remember that he was a rampant infla-
 tionist in 1874, and though he fought for
 Hayes and hard money in 1875, insisted that
 the question should be ignored as much as
 possible, and that the party should try to win
 by getting up a great scare on the school ques-
 tion. These things reveal the utterly unscrup-
 ulous demagogue, and Mr. Morton will be
 trusted only by those who want a civil ser-
 vice prostituted to the uses of partisanship,
 and care less for the public honor than for party
 success.

The independent voters, who are in earnest
 in their demands for reform, care nothing for
 the professions of parties. They distrust the
 Democratic party because its elements and
 tendencies are dangerous. They put no confi-
 dence in Republican demagogues, and will
 trust no man who insists upon leading the
 worst instead of the best end of his party. If
 the Republican party wants their votes, it
 must name a candidate who can be fully
 trusted. Otherwise they are quite capable of
 voting for a man of their own, leaving each
 party to get along as best it can without them.

MORE TROUBLE FOR THE TURK.

A new danger threatens the perplexed Porte.
 Scarcely has it made up its mind to accept the
 humiliating conditions of Count Andrassy's
 note as the only way of securing the con-
 tinued forbearance of the Great Powers, when
 the Principality of Roumania—strongest of the
 half-independent States that stretch across the
 northern frontier of Turkey—refuses to pay
 tribute. This important news came from
 the west of Pesh, and may not be fully confirmed.
 If it be true it would look as if the whole
 attempt to tide the Porte over its troubles by
 the half-friendly and half-hostile
 diplomacy of Austria, Russia, and Germany
 would fall through. Indeed it raises the sus-
 picion that this diplomacy has all been pro-
 ceeding upon false pretenses, and that while
 professing a desire to help Turkey retain
 intact her empire in Europe, the Great Powers
 have been secretly stirring up, first Mon-

tenegro, then Servia, and now the Danubian
 Principality, to join the Herzegovinian revolt.

Roumania may almost be said to be governed
 from Berlin. Bismarck, by one of his happiest
 strokes of statecraft, managed in 1866 to have
 a young Prussian cavalry lieutenant, closely
 allied to the Emperor William's family, elected
 to the vacant throne. He thus flanked Austria,
 and placed a barrier in the way of Russian
 designs upon Turkey. Prince Charles of Ho-
 henlohe had aside his *pickelhaube* and
 assumed the crown and title of Hospodar of
 Roumania. He could not, however, put off his
 Prussian ideas with his Prussian uniform. The
 sleepy population along the Danube were
 startled at the advent of all the modern im-
 provements. "Educate and drill" was the
 chief maxim of government which the
 royal carpet-bagger had acquired in
 his German training, and he proceeded to
 instruct his subjects in the use of the
 school-book and the needle-gun at the same
 time. He organized an effective army of
 60,000 men and a militia of 90,000; he
 opened macadamized roads, chartered banks,
 established schools, put a postal and telegraph
 system in tolerable order, and permitted
 Stroussberg to construct some hundreds
 of miles of railway for him. In a
 word, he ingrafted upon a fabric of
 society that had put forth no buds of pro-
 gress since the decay of the Roman power all
 the concomitants of advanced European civil-
 ization. This he accomplished in the face of
 the jealousy of the native nobles and the
 superstition and hostility of the mass of the
 people. However, he had, in a sense, the
 civilized world at his back, and his well-
 drilled infantry with their needle-guns and
 Krupp artillery stood by him faithfully.

Roumania, when constructed out of the prin-
 cipalities of Moldavia and Wallachia after the
 Crimean war, was made virtually independent
 on condition of paying to the Sultan a sum of
 about \$200,000 annually as tribute. Her rela-
 tions with the Porte were not very clearly
 defined, and so late as 1875 a sharp dispute
 occurred about her right to conclude com-
 mercial treaties with other powers. In all matters
 except dealing with other nations the country
 has, however, enjoyed the full right of self-
 government. The people are for the most
 part Greek Christians in religion and speak a
 language that resembles ancient Latin more
 closely than does any other living tongue.
 Outside of the large towns the standard of
 intelligence and culture is very low,
 as is shown by the fact that the Jewish res-
 idents are still the occasional victims of
 assault by fanatical mobs of Christians. Ac-
 cording to report the Roumanian Government
 has hit upon a pretext for throwing off the
 last form of allegiance to Turkey so ingenious
 that it would have done honor to the subtle
 Greek diplomacy of the old Eastern Empire.
 Roumania says to the Porte, "We agreed to
 'pay tribute in return for the obligation you
 assumed to defend us against foreign inva-
 sion. You have shown yourself incompetent
 to suppress a small local insurrection, and
 we can no longer depend upon your protec-
 tion; therefore we will pay you no more
 tribute.' If the Sultan is not satisfied with
 this logic, he can try conclusions with Prince
 Charles's needle-guns, and this he is in no
 condition to attempt."

"TURN BACK THE HANDS."

Mr. James P. Hambleton, the Democratic
 Clerk of the Committee of Ways and Means of
 the House of Representatives, is an incisive
 writer. Herewith we publish a communica-
 tion from him—the first we have received—on
 a subject which has been discussed considera-
 bly of late by the press of the country. In
 this letter Mr. Hambleton says: "In
 reply to your first onslaught I au-
 thorized your chief correspondent in this
 city to say that I never had a child or any-
 thing else named 'John Wilkes Booth.' To
 this he adds: 'I now say for the last time
 that the allegation is false and malicious,
 and if THE TRIBUNE has or can get any
 proof that I, or any member of my family,
 ever named a child John Wilkes Booth, we
 will give to the public without delay
 'who are your witnesses and what are
 they.' This is a positive denial, and as we
 understand it a direct challenge. We enter
 upon the work to which we are invited in the
 emphasis of *italic*, 'without delay,' and offer
 this morning the obituary notice of John W.
 B. Hambleton as it appeared in THE Washington
 Patriot of July 8, 1872. This is the usual
 death notice, as given by the family of the
 deceased. It shows that so late as 1872, when
 it was supposed the era of reconciliation had
 begun, Mr. Hambleton had not dropped the
 'Booth' from his son's christening, though it
 was voided under an initial. The notice, we
 believe, was the same in the other papers. We
 have abundant testimony, also, that the child
 was named 'Wilkes Booth'; that the child
 and the child's nurse habitually so gave his
 name; that Mr. or 'Dr.' Hambleton repeat-
 edly called him Wilkes Booth and gave his
 name as Wilkes Booth when inquired of, and
 that it was a matter of some notoriety in
 Atlanta and at Washington."

So it appears from this announcement that
 in the month of March, 1866, nearly a year
 after the assassination of Mr. Lincoln and the
 close of the war, this person perpetuated his
 hatred for the Union, his murderous hatred for
 the memory of Mr. Lincoln, his strange ad-
 miration for an assassin's deed, and his un-
 accountable reverence for an assassin's infamy,
 by giving his child the assassin's name. That
 is all there is to it. He has quibbled about
 it, evaded the direct issue, prevaricated,
 and at last sharply and squarely denied
 it and demanded the proofs. We give
 him "without delay" the first installment,
 and we take leave to assure him, upon this his
 first appearance in a formal denial of the
 charge, that this is not "a crusade of the anti-
 Democratic press" against him; that it is
 not "partisan and malicious," and that he
 himself is of no consequence whatever ex-
 cept as a great party takes him
 up and makes him in some sense
 representative of its spirit and purpose. In
 reply to his question whether there is "any-
 thing in either of the new amendments of
 the Constitution, the Reconstruction acts,
 'acts of Congress, proclamations, or military
 orders that prohibits a man from
 naming a child anything he chooses,'
 we answer unhesitatingly there is not. He
 may name his child Judas Iscariot or Simon
 Magus, and there is no law to prevent it—
 nothing but the sense of decency and some
 sort of human feeling toward the child. But
 we may add that, though there is no law against
 it, there is in the heart of the American peo-
 ple, South as well as North, among the ex-
 Confederate as well as the ex-Federal
 soldiers, such high and holy hatred
 for the cowardly act and the detested name of
 an assassin as will not allow the man who
 flings in decent people's faces this shameful
 homage to an assassin's memory to wear the

honors of the People's Government, and draw
 pay from the People's Treasury. And though he
 is but an insignificant person, holding by grace
 of a Democratic Congress an insignificant office,
 the People of this country who have not for-
 gotten to reverse Mr. Lincoln's memory will
 demand of the party which is responsible for
 this appointment why it honors the man who
 honored his assassin. And the gentlemen who
 have done it may be assured that, however
 they may view it, it is a matter of no light
 consequence.

Mr. Hambleton says his resignation is sub-
 ject to the will and pleasure of Mr. Morrison,
 the chairman of the Committee of Ways and
 Means. He seems to think it will not be ac-
 cepted; that at least it will not be required.
 Well then, THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE—by vir-
 tue of its record as a true and unflinching
 friend of the South when the South needed
 friends and it cost something to stand
 up and demand fair play for her; by virtue
 of its devotion to the cause of universal am-
 nesty, for which it has made some sacrifices;
 by virtue of the large and hearty spirit in
 which its great founder urged forgetfulness of
 the past and peace and reconciliation for the
 future—the spirit which since his death it has
 encouraged and striven to maintain; by
 virtue of its representing millions of honest
 and patriotic citizens who can forgive the heat
 and passion of the war, but who detest and
 abhor the act of assassination and the memory
 of the assassin—THE NEW-YORK TRIBUNE
 asks Mr. Morrison to accept this person's resig-
 nation. He may name his children what he
 pleases. But he should not appear in public.

BUILDINGS FIT FOR FLAMES.

The possibility of a widespread conflagration
 which may sweep over a considerable portion
 of this city was indicated by the rapid
 spread of the fire of night before last.
 Just one week previous a gale lasting dur-
 ing an entire day blew through the city
 at a rate varying from forty to seventy
 miles per hour. Had a gale raged with similar
 force during the fire, no human power
 could have stayed the destruction till it reached
 the water's edge. Even a wind of half such
 velocity—not at all unusual at this season—
 would have scarred a great area with black-
 ened ruins and inflicted permanent injury
 on New-York. Such a wind played in the
 chief part in Chicago's great fire. In
 the fourth of July night when a large portion
 of Portland was consumed, a fierce wind car-
 ried blazing timbers, almost entire roofs,
 for long distances, spreading the flames
 from new points with astonishing rapidity.
 Other conditions may prove almost as effective
 as a high wind. The epidemic malady among
 the horses of the Boston Fire Department
 caused the delay by which the granite ware-
 houses and Mansard roofs of that city were
 burned. There are instances where "cold per-
 forms the effect of fire," as in 1835, when
 New-York's greatest conflagration started
 while the thermometer marked near zero
 and the hydrants were frozen. A great ex-
 plosion proved an equally efficient means
 of spreading the flames of the Broad-
 street fire of 1845. Nor in enumerating these
 instances do we by any means cover the
 list of possibilities. If the water main
 near Grand-st. and Broadway had been ac-
 cidentally fractured a few hours before Tues-
 day's fire, or a very heavy snow had fallen
 so as to block the streets, one block would
 not have comprised the scene of destruction.

In fact, all the outside circumstances were
 favorable on Tuesday evening. The building
 in which the fire broke out fronted on Broad-
 way, one of our widest streets, and on
 Crosby-st. where the buildings on the
 opposite side are brick and of no
 great height. Evidently the danger would
 have been far greater in a narrower
 street on the one hand and among taller build-
 ings on the other; conditions to be reasonably
 expected when a large fire breaks out in what
 is called the "dry goods district" of this city.
 Let us hope that that fire will not start
 in such a building as the iron-fronted
 stores that were consumed on Tuesday night.
 Very handsome were their fronts, and very
 strong looking the tall walls, but they were
 little safer in reality than a Chinese fort with
 painted portholes. Between the two buildings
 that extended from Broadway to Crosby-st.
 there was nothing but a party-wall, probably
 not over sixteen inches thick in the lower
 stories, and tapering upwards. Into this wall
 the beams of both buildings entered; hence
 when one burned the other was in the
 greatest danger. In each building a large
 skylight capped a well that served as
 the chimney for a furnace in which the
 goods stored were the fuel. These sky-
 lights were side by side in the two build-
 ings, and when the flames shot out through
 one of them hundreds of feet into the air, no
 fireman could stand near the other skylight
 to protect it from a falling deluge of blazing ma-
 terial. The fire was not stopped till it came
 to substantial walls which the firemen could
 keep wetted.

It is noteworthy, also, that there was no
 parapet wall between these buildings. A para-
 pet five feet high affords efficient protection to
 firemen on the roof adjoining a blazing build-
 ing. If there are openings cut through the
 parapet, water can be poured directly on the
 flames, and in any case the adjoining roof
 can be well wetted. The absolute need
 of such a barrier between neighboring
 roofs was never more clearly illustrated
 than in this fire; especially is it requisite
 where the buildings are of great height and
 depth, and used for storing valuable goods.
 Without parapets, and separated only by party-
 walls, the lofty stores built in recent years are
 likely to serve as the torches to light the flames
 of a burning city.

They have the soft-money lunacy pretty badly
 in the lumber regions of Pennsylvania—a little worse,
 it would appear, than in any other part of the country
 except Indiana. The Hon. Wm. H. Armstrong
 of Williamsport, lawyer and ex-Congressman, has
 prepared a financial platform in the form of a peti-
 tion to Congress, and is sending it over the State for
 signatures. It looks like forcing the season to be
 making platforms just now, but Mr. Armstrong is
 impatient and cannot wait for the Spring conven-
 tions. His document is a good abstract of Judge
 Kelley's oft-repeated speech. It demands "a cur-
 rency based on the national credit," which of course
 means irredeemable greenbacks, convertible into
 that fool's specific, 3:65 bonds. All Pennsylvania
 soft-money schemes had there. The bonds are to
 be payable in greenbacks and the greenbacks in
 bonds, and so the process is to go on
 forever. Just how this is basing the cur-
 rency on the credit of the nation Mr. Arm-
 strong does not explain, and no wonder, for no man
 ever did explain it. We wish, however, that our
 Williamsport financier, who had the reputation in
 Congress of being a practical and sensible man,
 would tell us how his kind of currency is going to
 help the lumber trade. We do not care for any more
 vague and general talk about "reviving the pros-
 trated industries of the country," but we would like
 to hear something that goes directly to a tangible
 point. People have built more houses and bigger

houses than they need, and they have stopped buy-